

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 /077 W

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P R 241011Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PROIORITY 8864

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3776

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, XF, JA

SUBJECT: INITIAL JAPANESE REACTION TO SUSPENSION OF MID-EAST
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TOKYO 3698

1. FONOFF (MURATA) EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER SUSPENSION
OF KISSNGER MISSION BUT REGARDS IT AS TEMPORARY SETBACK
ONLY. SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY MAY NOT HAVE PROVED PRACTICAL AT
THIS TIME, BUT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH REMAINS VALID, AND US
INTERMEDIARY ROLE ESSENTIAL IN ULTIMATE ACHIEVEMENT OF SETTLE-
MENT, WITH OR WITHOUT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. SUSPENSION OF TALKS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON JAPAN'S OVERALL
POLICY TOWARD MID-EAST. ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAS HAPPENED YET,
HOWEVER, MURATA EXPECTS THAT SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL INCREASE
ARAB PRESSURE ON GOJ TO RECONSIDER POSITION ON ISRAEL.
NOVEMBER 22, 1973, STATEMENT BY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY
NIKKAI DO SAYS JAPAN WILL BE COMPELLED TO "RESTUDY POLICY
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TOWARD ISRAEL" AT SOME FUTURE TIME SHOULD ISRAEL FAIL TO

WITHDRAW FROM LANDS OCCUPIED DURING 1967 WAR. SO FAR, JAPANESE HAVE TURNED ASIDE ARAB ARGUMENTS BY POINTING OUT THAT ISRAEL IN PROCESS OF RESOLVING PROBLEM THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THIS POINT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MAKE, AT LEAST FORTIME BEING, MURATA SAID.

3. WITH FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TURNING TO QUESTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND PLO REPRESENTATION, PRESSURES ON GOJ TO MAKE FORMAL GESTTURE TOWARD PALESTINIANS WILL ALSO INCREASE. RELATIONSHIP REMAINS IN LIMBO FOR NOW. PLO IS ADOPTING STANDOFISH ATTITUDE TOWARD RECENT INVITIATION FROM JAPAN-ARAB ASSOCIATION (REFTEL) BECAUSE NO FORMAL RECOGNITION OR STATUS IMPLIED. CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE OF GOJ TOWARD PLO SINCE TEL AVIV RAID CONTINUES. JAPAN-ARAB ASSOCIATION HEAD NAKATANI SAW PRIME MINISTER MIKI ON MARCH 21 AND RECEIVED NO ENCURAGMENT. MURATE SEES NO CHANGE IN GOJ GO-SLOW APPROACH TOWARD PLO. HE BELEIVES THAT STRONG HIGH-LEVEL US DEMARCHE AGAINST CLOSER GOJ TIES WITH PLO WILL MAKE MAINTENANCE OF POLICY EASIER, AND FURTHERMORE WILL NOW BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY BOTH MIKI AND MIYAZAWA. HE HOPES THAT SUCH A DEMARCHE, IF MADE, WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DETAILED RATIONALE EXPLAINING WHY USG MIGHT THINK MORE FORMAL TIE ILL-ADVISED.

4. MURATA UNDERSTANDS THAT MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WILL BE EXTENSSION OF UN PEACEKEEPING MANDATE IN SINAI AND GOLAN AREAS. SHOULD SPECIAL ACTION BY SECURITY COUNCIL PROVE MOST PRACTICAL METHOD FOR COPING WITH QUESTION, JAPAN WILL PLAY COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE.

5. COMMENT: MURATA'S DISAPPOINTMENT IN SETBACK, BELEIF IN VITAL RUS ROLE IN AREA, CONCERN OVER INCREASED ARAB PRESSURE, AND PLEDGE OF CONTRUCTIVE UN ROLE REPRESENT CONTENTS OF BRIEFINGS PROVIDED PRIME MINISTER, FONMIN, AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY MARCH 22, THEY SHOULD SET TONE OF HIGH-LEVLE GOJ REACTION, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.
SHOESMITH

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